



News Release

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IDAHO WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE **TO MEET MARCH 12 IN BOISE**

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With snowpack levels in nearly three quarters of Idaho's basins now below average, top Idaho water scientists who form the Idaho Water Supply Committee will gather March 12 in Boise to take a detailed look at the state's water prospects for 2002, the Idaho Department of Water Resources announced today.

Idaho snowpack data now shows 12 of 17 basins below normal levels for this time of year. Statewide, the snowpack average is at 84 percent of normal. The state, which has been in drought for the past two years, is about three-quarters of the way through the snow accumulation season.

Of particular concern to the Committee will be water outlooks for southern and eastern Idaho, particularly the Upper Snake River system and the Bear Lake basin. Snowpack levels in those areas are as low as 71 percent of average and come on the heels of water shortages last year that left most reservoirs drained.

The Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the IDWR State Office, 1301 North Orchard St. The Committee was created in the late 1980s, during Idaho's worst drought on record. It is designed to provide an annual forward looking picture of Idaho water prospects which can be used by public and private sector water users.

The meeting will be held in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in or understand the meeting, please contact Bill Ondrechen, (208) 327-7988, in advance so arrangements can be made.